

## A NEW *ADMETULA* (GASTROPODA; CANCELLARIIDAE) FROM SOUTH AFRICA

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*Abstract.*—*Admetula epula* is described on the basis of seven specimens taken from the gut contents of fish caught between Cape St. Blaize and Port Elizabeth, Republic of South Africa. This new species can be distinguished from all Recent congeners on the basis of its lack of varices and its smooth outer lip.

The cancellariid genus *Admetula* Cossmann, 1889 was erected to contain five Eocene species from the Paris Basin, and is well represented in Paleogene and Neogene Tethyan faunas. The genus survives in the Recent fauna along continental margins at depths ranging from 75–700 m. Recent species referable to this genus include: *Admetula garrardi* Petit, 1974, from the western rim of the Pacific, *A. atopodonta* (Petit & Harasewych, 1986) from the central Philippines, *A. deroyae* Petit, 1970, from the Galapagos Islands, *A. bayeri* (Petit, 1976) and *A. vossi* (Petit, 1976), both from the western Atlantic, and *A. cornidei* (Altimira, 1978) from off northwestern Africa. Seven specimens, all taken from the gut contents of fish caught off southernmost Africa, represent an additional species of *Admetula* that is described herein.

Abbreviations used in the text: NM, Natural Museum, Pietermaritzburg; USNM, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

### *Admetula epula*, new species

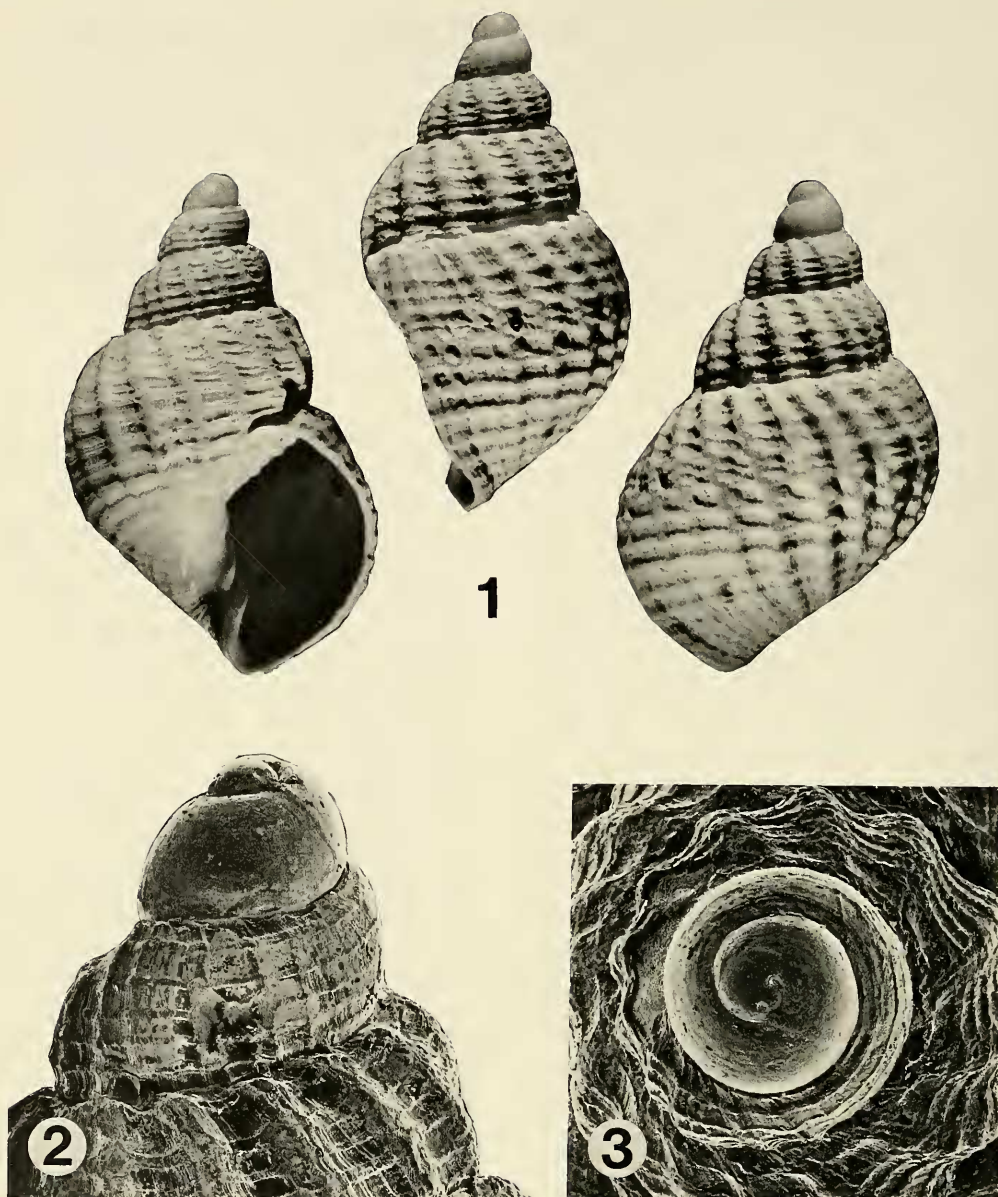
Figs. 1–3, Table 1

*Diagnosis.*—A small species with ovately conical shell lacking varices. Outer lip of aperture smooth, neither crenulate nor with lirae.

*Description.*—Shell (Fig. 1, Table 1) small, reaching 10.2 mm, heavy, ovately conical, with rounded anterior. Protoconch (Figs. 2,

3) of 1¾ smooth, erect whorls, aligned with coiling axis of teleoconch. Transition to teleoconch marked by appearance of 4–5 low, broad, spiral cords, followed ½ whorl later by 3–4 closely spaced axial bands, equal to spiral cords in prominence. Thereafter, axial sculpture consists of regularly spaced, rounded, strongly prosocline ribs (11–12 on first teleoconch whorl, 16–20 on body whorl). Teleoconch with up to 4 strongly convex whorls. Suture impressed behind small, rounded shoulder. Spiral sculpture of 11–15 major cords on body whorl, with single, weaker cord between adjacent major cords. Aperture ovate, deflected from coiling axis by 12–14°. Outer lip thin, smooth within. Inner lip adpressed posteriorly, with an angle of 122–130° formed between the parietal region and the columella. Parietal region with 5 or 6 equally-spaced, raised ridges overlying anteriormost spiral cords of previous whorl. Columella with two sharp columellar folds and siphonal fold, all equally prominent. Anterior slope of shell steep, with no clear distinction between body whorl and siphonal canal. Shell color white. Periostracum light greenish-yellow, consisting of thin, closely-spaced lamellae, with fine hairs at intersections of spiral cords and axial ribs.

*Material examined.*—Holotype (NM B7266/T2817); Paratypes 1, 2 (NM B873); Paratype 3 (USNM 845610); Paratype 4 (Petit collection); between Cape St. Blaize and Port Elizabeth, Republic of South Af-



Figs. 1-3. 1, *Admetula epula*, apertural, lateral and dorsal views of the holotype, 8.0 $\times$ . Apical (Fig. 2) and lateral (Fig. 3) views of the protoconch, both 50 $\times$ .

rica, ex pisce. Paratype 5 (NM A4817), off Cape St. Blaize area, ex gut *Congiopodus spinifer*, Jun 1976. Paratype 6 (NM B1050), off Cape St. Blaize, ex pisce, Jun 1975.

*Type locality*.—Between Cape St. Blaize and Port Elizabeth, Republic of South Africa.

*Etymology*.—The Latin *epula*, meaning banquet or feast, is considered appropriate as all known specimens have been collected from the gut contents of bottom feeding fish.

*Remarks*.—On the basis of its size and shell morphology, *Admetula epula* appears to be most closely related to *A. cornidei*. It

Table 1.—*Admetula epula*, new species. Measurements of shell characters. Linear measurements in mm ( $n = 5$ ).

Character	Mean	$\sigma$	Range
Shell length (SL)	9.47	0.49	8.86–10.23
Aperture length (AL)	5.42	0.41	4.92–6.12
AL/SL	0.572	0.02	0.544–0.598
No. of whorls, protoconch	1.71	0.08	1.55–1.75
No. of whorls, teleoconch	3.47	0.12	3.25–3.60
Spire angle	55.2°	0.81°	54.0°–56.5°
Axial ribs on body whorl	19.0	1.55	16–20

can be distinguished from *A. cornidei* by its more elevated spire, by its smooth outer lip that lacks apertural lirae, and by its rounded rather than tabulate shoulder. The western Pacific Recent species *Admetula garardi* and *A. atopodonta*, as well as *A. evulsa* (Solander, 1766), the Eocene type species of the genus, all differ in attaining nearly twice the size of the African species, as well as in having distinct varices at increments of 90–120°, protoconchs deviated from the coiling axis of the shell, and lirae within the outer lip.

The fact that both specimens of *A. cornidei* and all seven specimens of *A. epula* are 9–11 mm in length suggests that this represents the adult size of these species. Nothing is known of the biology of *Admetula epula* other than that *Congiopodus spinifer* (Smith), one of the fish from which this species was taken, normally inhabits depths of 55–146 m (Smith & Heemstra 1986).

#### Acknowledgments

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*nidei*, as well as with an undescribed northwestern African species of *Admetula*.

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